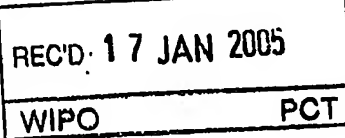




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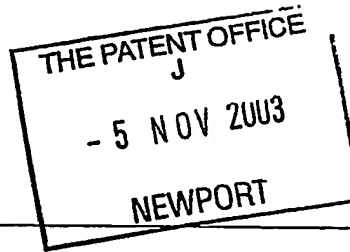
Dated 10 January 2005



05NOV03 E849686-1 B14269
P01/7700 0.00-0325795.3

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2. Patent application number

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0325795.3

- 5 NOV 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

MR. PAUL BROWN

10 BISHOPS ROAD

TRUMPINGTON,

CAMBRIDGE

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8746877001

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

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"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

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8746877001

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Answer YES if

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- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
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Patents Form 1/77

5 Accompanying documents: A patent application must include a description of the invention. Not counting duplicates, please enter the number of pages of each item accompanying this form:

Continuation sheets of this form 0

Description 7

Claim(s) 0

Abstract 0

Drawing(s) 2 *12*

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Priority documents

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Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for a preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for a substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature(s)

Date 3 NOV. 2003

12. Name, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any, of person to contact in the United Kingdom

MR. PAUL BROWN

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BIB WITH POCKET

The present invention relates to a bib with pocket, as used by babies and toddlers, and the material the bib and bib pocket are constructed of, whereby the pocket catches food or drink dropped by the child, which in turn protects the child's lap from staining by the food or wetting by the drink.

Many different types of bibs with bib pockets designs exist, and are well known, but each suffers from the disadvantages described accordingly forthwith with each bib type. It is particularly reusable bibs that are relevant, and that are discussed, in relation to the present invention; the present invention being of the reusable type.

Types of bib pocket include those on injection moulded plastic bibs which use a relatively rigid plastic material all over and, hence, as the pocket is an integrated part of the moulding it is therefore quite rigid with only slight flex possible. Because the pocket is permanently protruding out, wide and quite rigid it makes it difficult for the child to reach the table and can hinder body movement, particularly the arms when feeding or playing. Other bib types include rubber moulded bibs, also with permanently formed pockets, which offer less body restriction, due to the increased flexibility of the material, but, still, the permanently formed pocket protrusion can be annoying to the child at play and partially hinder arm movement. Rubber bibs can also become mis-shaped after time causing further annoyance if they do not rest against the chest naturally. Others include bibs made up of either solely, or a mixture of, thin flexible materials such as plastic sheet,

woven nylon or polyester sheet, terry toweling and cotton sheet. The pockets on these are normally simply a piece of one of the aforementioned materials sewn onto the front of the main bib around the sides and bottom edges, producing a predominantly flat pocket which, while is less obtrusive to the child, results in a limited opening that is unlikely to catch many spillages. Several devices have been patented, although few are on the market, that aim to address this issue, such as springs, clips and insert parts and generally are not elegant solutions with the disadvantages that they can be easily mislaid, broken or add expense. Others bibs include those made up of a composite of impervious materials with a piece of the same material bonded flat on the back face by an adhesive around the side and bottom edges whereby when it is folded inside out it forms a more open pocket on the front face due to the width and stiffness of the beading of adhesive, and has the benefit that the bib is flat and thin when it folded back flush. This, however, has the same problems in that the adhesive is required to dry relatively stiff to create the desired material formation effect, thus creating a rigid structure to the pocket area of the bib that can, again, annoy the child and hinder arm movement. These bibs also require the stiff adhesive bonding line to be quite wide, spanning from the edge of the bib to at least three eighths of an inch from the edge to the to achieve the formation effect. This width not only exacerbates the stiffness problem but creates an undesirably large upstanding lip inside the pocket. This wide and quite inflexible lip also does not allow the pocket to fold neatly around the corners placing stress on the bond. These types of bib use a composite of different materials bonded together to form the sheet material. This has the disadvantage of requiring an extra production process to create the lamination, which adds expense,

and has the risk of delaminating during use, particularly during washing and tumble drying.

An object of this invention is to provide a bib pocket that can be stored flat on the back face of the bib, to allow the child full arm movement if, for instance, wearing the bib whilst playing and hence not needing the food catcher, but which can be quickly turned in-side-out to naturally form a front protruding pocket for snack or meal times, and which uses a low cost, flexible and robust material and a joining method that results in the formed bib pocket being soft and pliable, with flexibility constant throughout its structure, that is gentle on the child's skin and can deflect easily and comfortably if pushed by the child's arms or squashed up against a table edge, yet return to its original formed pocket shape and/or its flat state every time.

Accordingly, this invention provides a bib with bib pocket, both made up of neoprene sheet, as typically used for making wetsuits, constructed by one small piece of neoprene being sewn flat onto the back face of another larger piece of neoprene, around the bottom and side edges, which can be turned in-side-out to form an open, yet soft and pliable pocket on the front face by the fact that the neoprene material maintains a firm yet flexible shape and has a constant bend characteristic of which the ease of deformation is complimented by the use of sewing with naturally soft cotton thread for the join line, along a line less than three eighths of an inch from the edge for a conveniently small lip.



The use of neoprene is ideal in that it bends gently in a generally constantly curved manner thus creating a smooth flowing form from the shoulders to the tip of the pocket. This formation naturally narrows the width of the bib and thus creates more space for the child's arms to move each side of the bib and, even if the child squashes the formed pocket with their arm, the material will gently and comfortably deflect. The use of sewing and the small size of the lip of the joint area, achievable by the fact that the distance from the sew-line to the edge is less than three eighths of an inch, also means the bib has good flexibility through the joint strip area as well as in the main neoprene areas. The flexibility of the neoprene combined with the flexible join is what allows the bib and pocket to naturally create and maintain their form so well and allows the whole bib to return to its flat state when folded back by the fact that there is little stress on any parts of the bib material or the joint area.

Preferably the shape of the bottom of the bib is to be rounded to create a more flowing form from top to bottom when in the open mode. The avoidance of hard corners will also allow easier cleaning and less stress on the joint area when being folded in and out.

Neoprene also offers the benefits that it can be wiped clean easily and is naturally waterproof so is ideal to prevent moisture reaching the child's chest and ideal as a liquid-spill catcher pocket material. It is not a composite of laminations and so is strong for long term use and particularly robust when washed and dried in washing and tumble drier machines.

Preferably the edges of the neoprene would be finished with an edging strip, typically of cotton sheet bias binding, for protection and to improve the appearance.

Preferably the main and larger piece of neoprene would be cut to a shape that includes strips that allow the bib to be positioned over the shoulders and around the neck and, accordingly, would include fixing devices, such as snap-fixings, to ensure the bib is connected around the child's neck securely. This is preferable to a straight through hole which has the problem that it does not adjust to different head crown diameters, potentially causing distress to the child when putting on or taking off that type of bib.

Further details may be added to the bib such as absorbent material sewn to the front face to absorb dribble and drinks spillages.

Further more, another embodiment would be to use the advantages of neoprene, i.e. soft and comfortable around the neck, flexible, easily cleanable, robust and waterproof, but without the pocket feature. This neoprene bib without a pocket would be considered for a lower cost version of the present invention that does include a pocket.

It should be noted that the description of 'front' and 'back' faces of the bib are relative as it may be preferable for the pocket to be in the open position on a side of the bib that is not considered the front, i.e. the front face may be considered the one with branding or with absorbent toweling, yet it may be desirable to have the open pocket on the opposite



face, normally called the back, and simply turn the bib over so that the open pocket is now on the front. This present invention relates to both scenarios.

Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 shows the front view of the bib with the pocket in the flat position,

FIGURE 2 shows a side view of the bib with the pocket in the flat position,

FIGURE 3 shows the rear view of the bib with the pocket folded in-side-out to form an open pocket

FIGURE 4 shows a side view of the bib with the pocket folded in-side-out to form an open pocket

As shown in Figure 1, the bib comprises of a main part of neoprene 1 with neck loop shape 6 leading to a fastening device 4, a smaller piece of neoprene 2 to create the pocket, an edging material 3 and stitching 5 to secure the edging material 3 around all edges of the bib material and also to fix the pocket material 2 to the main part 1 around the bottom and side edges. The top edge of part 2 remains unattached to part 1. The stitching 5 is preferably a single row of stitched thread for maximum flexibility and is to

be less than three eighths of an inch from the edge of the bib in order to create a suitably small and therefore flexible lip.

Figure 2 is a side view of the bib showing the fastening device 4 and with the pocket material 2 in the flat position.

Figure 3 shows a front view of the bib with the pocket 2 formed into the open mode by folding in-side-out. This view shows how the bib becomes conveniently narrower as the pocket is formed outwards which gives the child more sideways arm space for feeding themselves or reaching out.

Figure 4 is a side view illustrating the open pocket mode clearly. This view shows how smoothly the main material 1 naturally flows into the pocket material 2.

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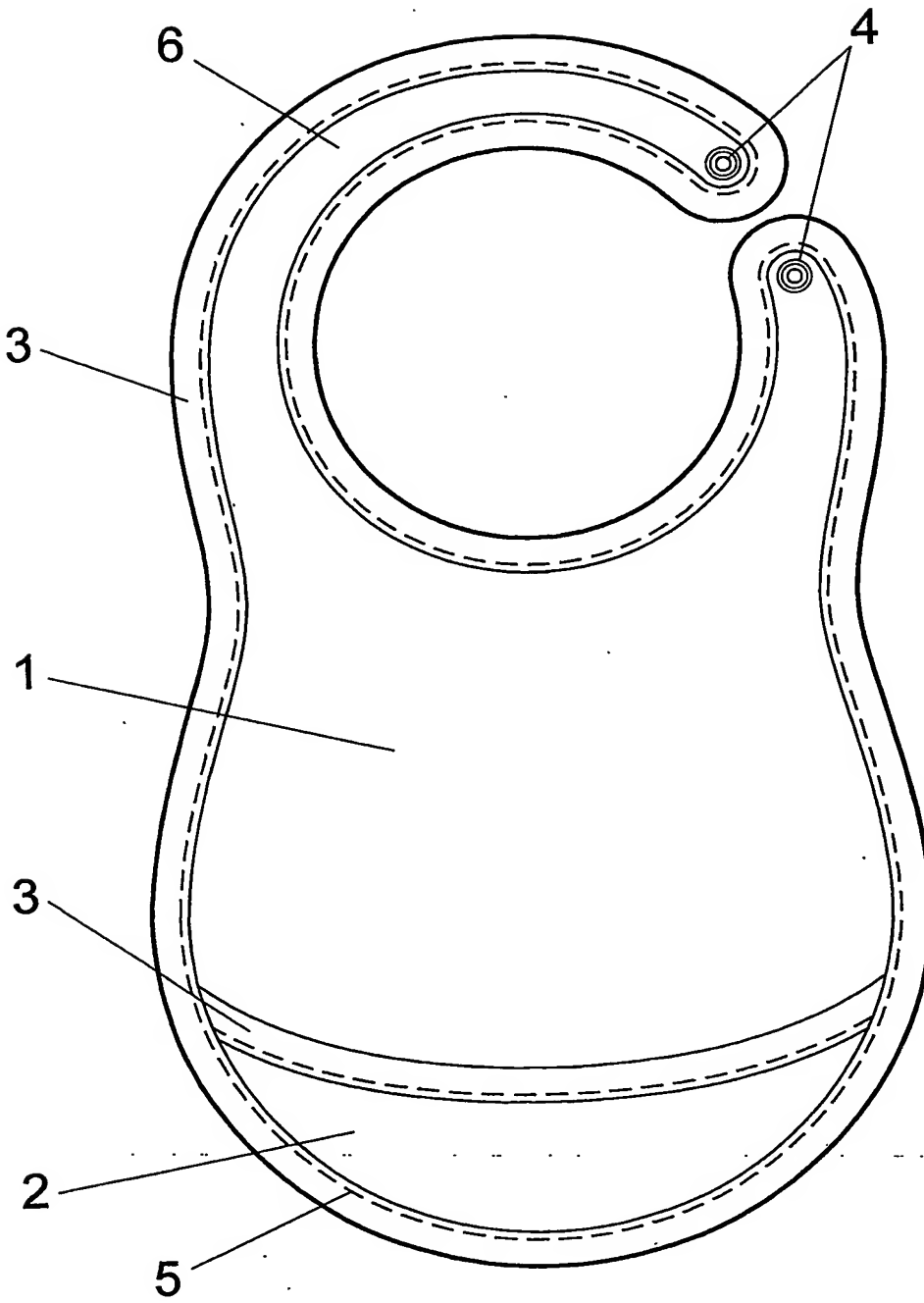


FIG. 1

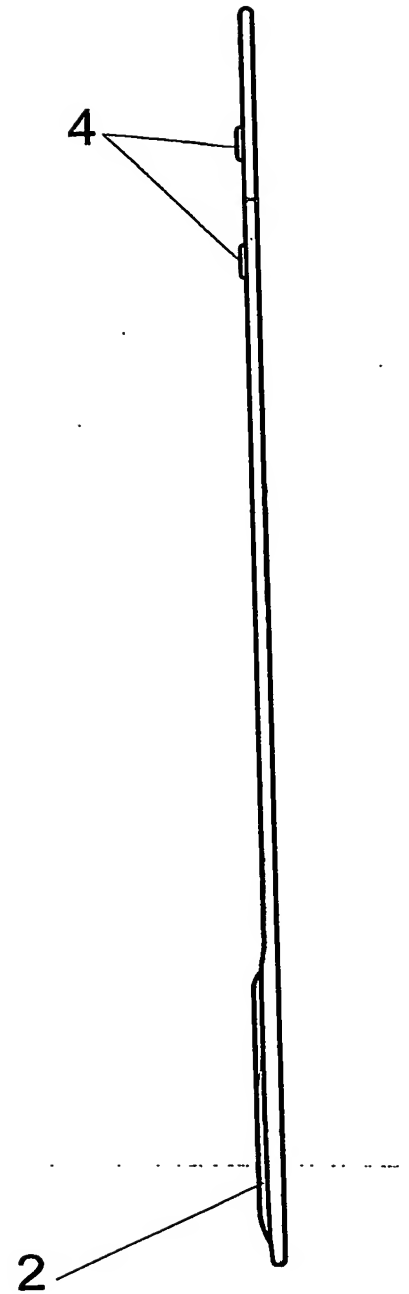


FIG. 2

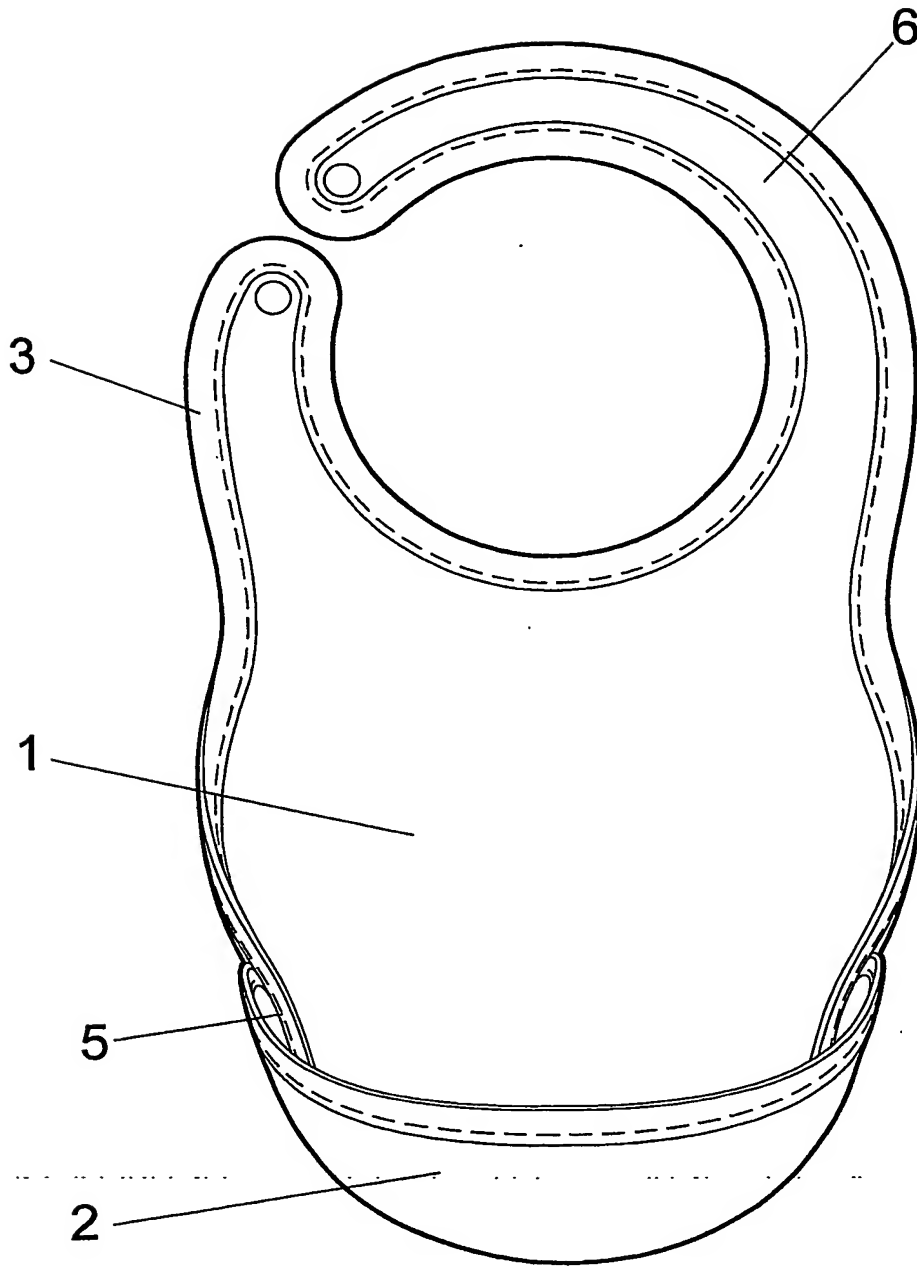


FIG. 3



FIG. 4

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